(b) if so, the name of the company and the broad features of its operation in India;

(c) whether any agreement has been signed with the said firm; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. M/s Gaz de France International, a national company of France, which is importing Liquified Natural Gas (LNG) in Europe and operating LNG terminals for a long period, has obtained the approval of Foreign Investment Public Board (FIPB) for equity participation upto SO per cent in the paid up share capital of Petronet LNG Ltd. (PLL), a joint venture promoted by Indian Oil Corporation, Gas Authority of India Ltd., Oil and Natural Gas Corporation and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. for developing, importation and transportation projects of LNG at Dahej (Gujarat) and Kochi (Kerala). GDF has invested a sum of US$38 million approximately acquiring 10 per cent equity share in PLL and signed an agreement in this behalf with the promoter oil companies of PLL on June 02,2001 to undertake various activities for establishment of LNG terminals with re-gasification facilities of 5.0 million tonnes per annum (MTPA) capacity at Dahej and 2.5 MTPA capacity at Kochi.

Sale of Spurious Diesel

2565. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of spurious diesel rackets have been . unearthed during the last one year;

(b) whether they have been found operating in connivance with the authorised outlets of the various public undertakings under the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against the outlets; and

(d) the steps taken to prevent sale of spurious diesel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) The oil marketing companies carry out regular/surprise checks of retail outlets, to prevent various malpractices including adulteration. In addition, special drives are launched by the oil companies both on their own and also under direction of Government from time to time to check malpractices. Further, Anti Adulteration Cell, headed by a Director General, has been set up and empowered for search and seizure under various control orders.

Import of Crude Oil

2566. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the total import value of crude oil for the year 2000-2001

(b) the consumption trend of the range of oil products in the country for the first quarter of 2001 -2002 as compared to the same quarter of preceding year; and

(c) the details of plans to reduce the import of crude oil in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) The total import value of crude oil during 2000-2001 was Rs. 65,932 crore.

(b) The information is given in attached statement. *(See* below)

(c) Government has taken several steps to increase crude oil production in the country which include:

(i) To improve the recovery factor from existing major fields by implementing Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR) /Improved Oil Recovery (IOR) schemes. These would also help in accelerating oil production from the fields.

(ii) To add reserves by exploring in the deeper layers in the producing areas.

(iii) To explore in the new areas specially in deep water and difficult frontier areas.

(iv) To develop faster the newly discovered oil fields.

(v) To increase workover and stimulation operations.